

when your friendship
reaches gold level:
priceless

Buy a **\$15+ Starbucks®**
eGift card with
MasterCard® and we'll
add an **extra \$5.**

starbucks.ca/mastercard



Epic devices. Epic prices.

It's the perfect time to pick up an epic device on Canada's fastest mobile network, as ranked by PCMag¹. For a limited time, enjoy an amazing selection of smartphones starting at \$0.



Samsung Galaxy S6

NOW \$99⁹⁹

2-yr. Plus plan with data
\$729.99 no term

SIM card charge (\$9.95) may apply.



Sony Xperia[®] Z5

NOW \$49⁹⁹

2-yr. Plus plan with data
\$649.99 no term

SIM card charge (\$9.95) may apply.



LG G4

NOW \$0²

2-yr. Plus plan with data
\$699.99 no term

SIM card charge (\$9.95) may apply.



Samsung Galaxy S5 Neo

NOW \$0²

2-yr. Plus plan with data
\$549.99 no term

SIM card charge (\$9.95) may apply.

**STAR
WARS**
THE FORCE AWAKENS
ONLY IN THEATRES

Bell smartphones
just got
better

Get expert advice today.
Visit a Bell store near you:

AIRDRIE
Sierra Springs

CALGARY
1002 - 17th Ave. S.W.
4600-130 Ave S.E.
19488 Seton Crescent S.E.
Beacon Hill Centre
Chinook Centre
Crowfoot Crossing
Deerfoot Meadows
Harvest Hills Crossing
Market Mall
Marlborough Mall
North Hill Shopping Centre
Northland Village
Saddletowne Circle
Shawnessy Village
Southcentre Mall
Sunridge Mall
The Core
Westbrook Mall

CANMORE
105 - 802 Bow Valley Trail

EDMONTON
17551 - 100th Ave. N.W.
18559 Stony Plain Rd.
Abbottfield Shoppers Mall
Bonnie Doon Shopping Centre
Christ's Corner
Currents of Windermere
Edmonton City Centre
Kingsway Garden Mall
Londonderry Mall
Meyokumin Retail Centre
Mill Woods Town Centre
Namsa Centre South
Northgate Centre
Oliver Square
RioCan Meadows
South Edmonton Common
South Park Centre
Southgate Mall
Terra Rosa Shopping Centre
West Edmonton Mall
Westmount Centre

FORT MCMURRAY
Clearwater Landing
Peter Pond Shopping Centre
Stoneycreek Village

GRANDE PRAIRIE
Prairie Mall
South 40 Shopping Centre

LETHBRIDGE
Lethbridge SmartCentres
Park Place

LLOYDMINSTER
Lloyd Mall

MEDICINE HAT
Medicine Hat Mall

PEACE RIVER
10032 - 100th St.

RED DEER
Bower Place
Parkland Mall
Southpointe Common

ROCKY VIEW
Crossiron Mills Mall

SHERWOOD PARK
Emerald Hills Centre
Sherwood Park Mall

SPRUCE GROVE
Creekside Centre

ST-ALBERT
460-140 St-Albert Rd.
St. Albert Centre

Also available at:



Offer ends December 23, 2015. Available within network coverage areas available from Bell Mobility; see bell.ca/coverage. One-time connection charge (\$15) applies. 9-1-1 government monthly fee in NL: \$0.75, NS: \$0.43, PEI: \$0.70, NB: \$0.53, AB: \$0.44, SK: \$0.62, QC: \$0.40 Taxes extra. Other conditions apply. If you end your Commitment Period early, a Cancellation Fee applies; see your Agreement for details. Subject to change without notice. (1) Reprinted from www.pcmag.com with permission. © 2015 Ziff Davis, LLC. All Rights Reserved. (2) With new activations or upgrades on the following plans: In AB, BC, NB, NL, NT, NS, NU, ON, PE, YT: PLUS device price available with \$70/mo. spend before tax (\$50/mo. plan + \$20/mo. for 500 MB data). In SK: \$50/mo. spend before tax (\$45/mo. plan + \$5/mo. for 1GB data). In MB: \$55/mo. spend before tax (\$45/mo. plan + \$10/mo. for 2 GB data). In QC: \$75/mo. spend before tax (\$55/mo. plan + \$20/mo. for 4 GB data). Promotional pricing may apply; visit bell.ca/rateplans for details. Star Wars © & TM Lucasfilm Ltd. Samsung Galaxy S6 and Galaxy S5 Neo are trademarks of Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd., used in Canada under license. Sony is a trademark of Sony Corporation. Xperia is a registered trademark of Sony Mobile Communications AB. Android is a trademark of Google Inc. © 2015, LG Electronics Canada, Inc. All rights reserved. "LG" and the "LG logos" are registered trademarks of LG Corp. and its affiliates.



ENDANGERED MARMOTS BORN AT ZOO



Fourteen marmot pups born at the zoo will help improve the endangered population on Vancouver Island. COURTESY CALGARY ZOO



Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

The Force is strong with the marmots — 14 endangered Vancouver Island marmot pups were born at the Calgary Zoo during this year's breeding season, named for popular characters from a galaxy far, far away.

"We had a Luke, Leia, Han Solo, Chewbacca — and of course, our chubbiest one we

call Jabba," said senior veterinarian Dr. Doug Whiteside.

The species is listed as endangered and considered one of the rarest mammals in the world.

The zoo has been breeding marmots since 1998, when the number of Vancouver Island marmots fell below 30. Since then, they've produced 142 pups. After combined efforts from the Toronto Zoo, there are now over 300 marmots back on the island.

"This has been an excel-



**Our chubbiest one
we call Jabba.**

Dr. Doug Whiteside

lent year for us with a healthy population of new pups that will bolster the wild population," said Whiteside.

"They're very, very cute. They're about the size of a house cat — a chunky house cat."

Four females and 10 males were born, from four litters. Thirteen of the 14 are tentatively scheduled for release in the wild next year, to help increase marmot populations.

Whiteside said the exact reason why the marmots became endangered is still unknown, but speculated it might have had something to do with logging activity in the area. Logging created meadows for the marmots to run around in — but also made it easier for predators to snatch them.

Family just short of Vegas crash

PEDESTRIAN COLLISION

**Calgarians
minutes away
from tragedy**



Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

If the Vazquez-Mackay family didn't stop to sit down, they would have been right in the middle of Sunday night's horrific pedestrian-plowing on the Las Vegas strip.

Mark, a painter who lives in Calgary, had a stomach ache after he and his family ate at a nearby restaurant, so he decided to sit down for a bit.

He said the family was a block away when the rampage occurred in front of the Paris Hotel & Casino and Planet Hollywood.

"A block in front of us, a car drove off the street and ran over dozens of pedestrians," he said. "We didn't see it unfold, but we estimated we were two to three minutes short of being victims."

"We would have been right there. It could have been us."

Local police in Las Vegas said Lakeisha Holloway, 24, appeared to be intentionally driving her car into dozens of pedestrians Sunday evening, killing one and

injuring 35. Police have ruled out terrorism.

Mark said the Vegas Strip is much like the Stampede grounds in July. "Just imagine a car going down the midway during Stampede," he said. "It's basically shoulder to shoulder when you walk around here."

As the family approached the scene, Mark said he couldn't believe how many police officers and paramedics were there.

"They closed the whole street down," he said. "A lot of people were involved — we saw a lot of stretchers out."

"It was very frightening."

Mark said he initially thought he witnessed the aftermath of a mass shooting.

"I thought it was a shooting because of the gun violence history in the States," he said. "But it shows that driving a car can be just as dangerous."

Five Canadians were injured during the rampage and three of them were in critical condition, local police said. Holloway's three-year-old daughter — who was also in the car — was uninjured.

The Vazquez-Mackays went to Vegas to celebrate Carmen's 40th birthday. She said it was upsetting to see what unfolded Sunday night. "It's sad," she said. "Especially just before Christmas."



Carmen, Antonio and Mark Vazquez-Mackay flew to Vegas to celebrate Carmen's birthday. CONTRIBUTED

Get to know Lolo



Lolo sings in the shower



Lolo presses snooze



Lolo makes navy and black look good



Lolo picks the window seat



Lolo plays board games



Lolo pays extra for guac



Talk to your doctor



LOLO™ is a trademark of Warner Chilcott Company, LLC used under license by Allergan, Inc. or its affiliates.
© 2015 Allergan. All rights reserved.



Follow rules of the rink: City

SKATING

Official says they have 'very few' 311 complaints



Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Calgarians sure know their way around the rink but when it comes to lacing up and gliding down a sheet of ice there's some unsung rules of the road to follow.

The City of Calgary maintains six outdoor rinks, 12 arenas and 19 indoor rinks for those who fancy strapping on blades. But with great fun comes great responsibility and the cardinal rules seem to be: look out for others and respect those around you when cruising a crowded rink.

"Our outdoor rinks, we don't allow hockey sticks, it's recreational skating," Ron Buchan, parks community strategist with parks centre said.

"We hope that people try and follow the same pattern and be respectful of one and other."

Buchan laughed, adding it's a mystery why Olympic Plaza skaters choose to go counter-clockwise — because the city never told people to do it — but every day, skating starts and finishes in that direction.

Kerri Brauner, a professional skating coach now working as the director of coaching and programming for the Wildrose



Skaters can enjoy the artificial ice at Olympic Plaza and Bowness Park Lagoon this holiday season. METRO FILE PHOTO

Skate club, said there are some little-known skating rules people should be following while enjoying ice.

"You want your faster people on the outside of the rink and the slower people on the inside of the rink," Brauner said noting it does seem counter-intuitive. "When you pick up speed you end up moving outward, you don't move inward...people who are tentative tend to hang close to the boards, which is actually more dangerous."

“Our outdoor rinks, we don't allow hockey sticks, it's recreational skating.”

Ron Buchan

Brauner added folks should go in the same direction, but if you're skating backward, looking over your shoulders is a must.

"Those are kind of unwritten rules that should be followed," Brauner said.

Those who are at the level of doing jumps and spins are aware enough to look out for others — but she noted tricks can be done in the centre of the ice — and most people don't jump on public skating ice.

"It's not so much that they're an issue but other people who aren't looking out, or the people who are skating backwards and aren't looking backward, they

tend to cause more of the issues," Brauner said.

For those who end up flat on their bellies, her only advice is to quickly get to your knees — so as you get back up, you aren't taking up too much ice space.

Buchan said the outdoor rinks obviously don't have boards and are for family use. Employees intervene only when they see something not quite right. He noted there are "very few 311 complaints, if any" about skaters' conduct at outdoor rinks.

+ OPEN RINKS

The City of Calgary parks department isn't necessarily hoping for a white Christmas, but asking Mother Nature to keep it cold.

A stint of -10 C is the perfect recipe for freezing rinks. And with the cold times the city's goal is to have Prince's Island Lagoon open by Wednesday — bigger and better than before.

The lagoon has become very popular and the city is trying to keep up with ice lovers.

Bowness Park will also be open for the first time since 2012.

The park underwent construction in 2012 but completion of the redevelopment was delayed in 2013 because of the historic flood.

Now, the park has reopened and with it comes the Bowness Park Lagoon.

Outdoor facilities are currently being flooded, and if all goes well Boxing Day and beyond, Calgarians will be able to take to the ice.

Currently Olympic Plaza is the only City of Calgary rink to open, as it is artificial ice, and doesn't rely on consistent cool temperatures to stay open.

There are rentals available.

Anyone interested in skating can check out the City of Calgary's page online for ice conditions and hours.

IN STORE & ONLINE
TODAY ONLY
PYJAMAS

40% OFF

*Discount applied to the original ticket price. Select items only. Some exceptions may apply.

URBAN
PLANET

www.urban-planet.com

Find a store near you online.

EMPLOYMENT

No magic wand to fix job losses: Minister

"We understand the crisis

One of the first things the federal Liberal government intends to do is move ahead with cash for infrastructure

“But did I come with a wallet full of cash?”

"Your unemployment numbers have gone up, which provided greater access to employment insurance. Is that going to be enough for this downturn? I don't think so."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Low oil prices, have led to 40,000 job losses in the energy sector.

No.”

[illegible]

'Let's make it a great place to pee'

Businesses campaigning for downtown restrooms



"I was just really peeved after another customer, a really good customer, yelled at us because we don't have a public bathroom for her to

6 **Members get when you them use ashroom.**

Sharmar

Cochrane councillor Tara McFadden said this has been an issue since she came into office eight years ago. She said it's being discussed at council, and the next step is to work with local businesses, and with the budget, to see what the best possible fit is.

“Customers get upset when you won’t let them use your washroom.”

Fiona Sharman

Low oil prices hurt Alberta initiatives

REVENUE

Assistance programs may be delayed, says finance minister

Alberta's finance minister says low oil prices may force him to hit the brakes on millions of dollars in initiatives promised by the NDP government such as child-care benefits, school fee reductions, student hiring and environmental retrofits.

Joe Ceci said in a year-end interview that some or all of a dozen programs set to begin in the 2016-17 fiscal year may be delayed.

"We've addressed a lot of (our commitments). We've done a lot of them," Ceci told The Canadian Press. "The ones that haven't been started, they could potentially be delayed or reduced."

The specifics haven't been ironed out.

"I can't point you to any one (program) here in terms of com-

mitments, but I can tell you I'm comfortable recommending (to cabinet) slower phase-in and lower phase-in for some of these things," said Ceci.

Ceci and his staff are crunching numbers for the next budget to be presented in February or March.

The revenue scenario remains daunting because of a continued decline in oil prices, the well-spring of Alberta's economy. The price for a barrel of West Texas Intermediate has dropped to under \$40 US a barrel from a high 18 months ago of more than \$100 US.

The last budget, presented in October, has forecast a \$6.1-billion deficit.

In that budget, the NDP promised funding beginning in 2016-17 in 12 areas. The big-ticket item was \$147 million for a child-care benefit to go to low-income families on a per-child basis up to a

total of \$2,750 a year.

The government also promised \$75 million for more child-care spaces and to increase affordability.

Ceci might also defer \$30 million earmarked to improve home care for seniors, \$40 million for long-term care and \$20 million

for a program to provide school lunches for children in need.

Education promises in the budget included \$45 million to reduce the cost of school fees and \$44 million to provide additional classroom supports.

Premier Rachel Notley's personal

pledge to restore a summer student hiring program could also be affected.

The province was set to put up \$10 million a year to help businesses, municipalities and community organizations hire students to give them valuable work experience.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

\$6.1B

The last budget, presented by the NDP in October, forecast a \$6.1-billion deficit.



Alberta Finance Minister Joe Ceci attends a press conference prior to the official release of the 2015 provincial budget on Oct. 27. TOPHER SEGUIN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

SAVE UP TO
\$30

ON OUR **BEST
SELLING**
FITBIT TRACKERS



NOW \$119.95

Reg \$149.95

FITBIT CHARGE

**\$30
OFF***



NOW \$99.95

Reg \$119.95

FITBIT FLEX

**\$20
OFF***

HURRY! OFFER ENDS JANUARY 1ST

Indigo

Chapters

indigo.ca

*Offer valid from December 18th to January 1st on the Fitbit Charge and Flex at any Chapters, Indigo, and Coles locations across Canada, on kiosk and online purchases (at www.chapters.indigo.ca). Cannot be used to adjust amount paid on previous purchases. Offer not valid in conjunction with any other offer or promotion (including everyday rewards discount). Offer valid while quantities last. Prices and selection may vary between stores and online. Offer may change or be withdrawn at any time without notice.

Don't race the LRT, police warn drivers

TRANSIT

Alarm raised after four train-vehicle collisions



Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Four weekend CTrain-versus-motor-vehicle collisions have prompted a stern warning from Calgary Transit, Calgary police and the city roads department.

So far, according to CPS Traffic Section Staff Sgt. Paul Stacey, three charges have been laid. Police don't expect to lay charges in the fourth incident: a motorist fatality.

Brian Whitelaw, superintendent of Calgary Transit public safety and enforcement, said people are in a hurry and



Brian Whitelaw, superintendent of Calgary Transit public safety and enforcement, reminds people that trains need 90 metres to come to a complete stop. HELEN PIKE/METRO FILE

taking a chance this holiday season. But transit would like to remind folks that the train takes 90 metres to come to a complete stop.

"It's going to do, as we've seen, significant damage to the motor vehicle and the occupants," said Whitelaw. "This is an appeal to people, we want

you to have a good Christmas, we want you to have a safe Christmas, we want you to get home alive. Please don't take chances ... when those crossing rails are down, they're down for a reason."

Whitelaw said these incidents have involved motorists running red lights or sliding

through red lights and into the path of an oncoming train.

Stacey said charges include failing to obey a traffic control device and failing to stop for a red light. With the fatal collision Saturday, police are still looking for witnesses to help piece together what happened.

"With the other three we know for sure the people were driving too fast for the road conditions and they tried to stop far too late," Stacey said. "Intersections are typically the most dangerous places and the most slippery places."

Stacey noted in the 9 Street and 4 Avenue SW collision, the motorist was driving an SUV with all-wheel-drive. He said the incident had the potential to become more serious as there was a pregnant passenger.

"All-wheel drives are great for getting started, but they don't stop any faster than any other vehicle on the road ... just know that."

CITY BEAT

Thorncliffe home invasion sends seniors to hospital

Calgary police are investigating a home invasion in Thorncliffe that sent an elderly couple to hospital.

On Dec. 18 at 5 a.m., two robbers forced their way into a home in the 6100 block of Buckthorn Road NW. They demanded money and jewelry from the couple, both in their 70s, that lived inside.

Police said the robbers assaulted the residents, and then fled the home.

METRO STAFF

Man viciously beaten in downtown assault

Calgary police are investigating after man was rushed to hospital after he was viciously assaulted downtown early Monday morning. EMS were called to 11 Avenue and 1 Street SE around 2:30 a.m., after a man in his 30s was found unconscious and suffering from a serious head injury.

Crew drove him to hospital, where he is currently in stable condition. Police are questioning another man who's currently in custody.

METRO STAFF

Calgary police investigate Sandstone carjacking

Calgary police are investigating a carjacking that took place early Monday morning in the city's northwest. At 6:30 a.m. in the 100 block of Sandstone Road NW, a thief held one man at knifepoint, asking for his keys.

The victim complied, and the bandit took off with his 2000 Jeep Grand Cherokee, police said. Police suspect the bandit was working in tandem with a person driving a silver Honda or Acura.

METRO STAFF

Recycling program turns Christmas trees into mulch

The City of Calgary's Christmas Tree Recycling Program will turn trees into mulch for Calgarians to use in gardening or landscaping.

Mulch is free for city dwellers at the East Calgary landfill, while supplies last.

If you wish to take part in the program, you must have your tree out — beside your black cart — by 7 a.m. on Jan. 8.

METRO STAFF

**Lots
(and lots and
lots and lots)
of offers
on phones
and plans!**



iPhone® 5s

With the Tab Plus™

\$0⁽²⁾



Samsung Galaxy A5

With the Tab™

\$0⁽²⁾



LG G3

With the Tab™

\$0⁽²⁾



Moto X Play

With the Tab™

\$0⁽²⁾

Plus a
\$100 bonus
gift.*

Plus a
\$100 bonus
gift.*

Offer ends December 31, 2015.

Choose Happy™

koodo
mobile



MOBILESHOP



Calgary
Chinook Centre
CrossIron Mills
Market Mall
Marlborough Mall
Southcentre Mall
Sunridge Mall
Westbrook Mall

Red Deer
Bower Place

Southern Alberta
Medicine Hat Mall
Park Place Shopping Centre



Maria Dunn and her bandmates of the The Christmas Carol Project use music to portray their characters. CONTRIBUTED

Musicians leaving on high note

PERFORMANCE

Final year for The Christmas Carol Project



Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

John Armstrong and his crew of musicians are wishing you a Merry Christmas... for the

final time.

Armstrong, creator and producer of the The Christmas Carol Project, said dismantling the band after 20 years just felt right.

"I didn't want to let it get stale," he said. "Twenty is a good number. I thought, 'Let's go on a high note.'"

The Alberta-based troupe plays on Charles Dickens' a Christmas Carol, where each musician portrays a character through the instrument

they play.

The performance is also narrated, just so you keep track of what's happening.

Scott McTavish, Pump-house Theatre director, said he jumped on the opportunity to host the show for one last time.

"I like the uniqueness about it," he said.

"It's a wonderful story, and I hope (Calgarians) come out of the show feeling the spirit of giving."

Armstrong said he wanted to start the show to showcase Alberta's diverse talent, adding many bandmates have done great things since their first year.

"It's our tradition," he said. "I think when it's all said and done, I'll be nostalgic about it. It's a great show and I've met wonderful people."

Tickets are still available for the show on Dec. 22, and can be bought at pumphousetheatre.ca

CELEBRATION SQUARE

Public space plays with sound, light



Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

Celebration Square is open to the public.

And while the construction fences are no longer there, anyone checking out the East Village's newest park may notice the fins, which act as a barrier from the CTrain line.

Susan Veres, vice president of Calgary Municipal Land Corporation (CMLC), said the 3.5-metre-high fins have an added art element.

"They have motion sensors, so when train passes, light is triggered along the fence," said Veres. She said the sensors are also activated by sound, so they will light up during live music events.

The \$3 million park took a year to design, according to Veres, and is one of the smaller parks in the city — only 83 metres long and 35 metres wide.

The square was designed to fill an odd space between the LRT line and the pedestrian street, which didn't lend itself to development.

The space has a stage at one end, and Veres is expecting it will get lots of use when the Junos roll into town in March.

Coun. Druh Farrell said she sees many people making positive comments on twitter.

"This is the last public space in the East Village plan, except for the park south of the library — so this finishes off a network of public spaces," she said. "Each time one of these spaces in complete, we see a new burst of interest in East Village."



Artist rendering of Celebration Square COURTESY CMLC

CRIME

RCMP lays murder charges in probe of 2007 case

RCMP have charged a man with first-degree murder in the 2007 death of Calgarian Allan Gerald Berdahl.

On March 16, 2007, shortly before 9 a.m., members of the Didsbury RCMP Detachment received a report that a body had been found near a gravel road east of Carstairs, Alta.

The body was later identified as 36-year-old Gerry Berdahl of Calgary.

Police determined the

death to be a homicide and launched an investigation, which included members from specialized sections, such as the Calgary RCMP Major Crime Unit and RCMP Forensic Identification Section.

On Dec. 17, 2015, investigators from the "K" Division RCMP Historical Homicide Unit arrested 49-year-old Russell Steven Tessier of Calgary. He has been charged with first-degree murder and remains in custody. METRO

connect & WIN WIN 1 OF 30 VEHICLES VALUE UP TO \$35,000 OR \$10,000 CASH CREDITS TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF ANY 2015 GM VEHICLE

HELD OVER TODAY ONLY

SALE

THIS WEEK ONLY AT CMP AUTOMOTIVE

2015 GMC TERRAIN SLE	2015 CHEVROLET TRAX LT AWD	2015 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 CREW CAB	2015 CHEVROLET CRUZE LS
RETAIL PRICE: \$30,145 CMP DISCOUNT PRICE: \$20,998	RETAIL PRICE: \$28,000 CMP DISCOUNT PRICE: \$19,998	RETAIL PRICE: \$40,320 CMP DISCOUNT PRICE: \$25,900	RETAIL PRICE: \$21,945 CMP DISCOUNT PRICE: \$14,998
YOU SAVE \$9,147	YOU SAVE \$8,062	YOU SAVE \$14,420	YOU SAVE \$6,947
\$63/WEEK 4.99% FOR 96 MONTHS	\$59/WEEK 4.99% FOR 96 MONTHS	\$76/WEEK 4.99% FOR 96 MONTHS	\$44/WEEK 4.99% FOR 96 MONTHS
6 SPEED, AUTO, A/C, CRUISE CONTROL, POWER LOCKS, POWER WINDOWS, ONSTAR, BLUETOOTH	6 SPEED, AUTO, A/C, ONSTAR, HEATED MIRRORS	5.3L V8, A/C, 4.2" COLOR SCREEN, BLUETOOTH, ONSTAR, CRUISE CONTROL, POWER LOCKS	6 SPEED, AUTO, A/C, SIRIUS XM RADIO, ONSTAR, BLUETOOTH
CG211292	CG201396	CG327280	CG107718

WINTER SERVICE SPECIAL DEXOS OIL CHANGE, AND MULTI-POINT VEHICLE INSPECTION (SEE ADVERT FOR DETAILS) +\$39.95 FOR DIESEL **\$79.95**

CMP GM 403-207-1000 **CMPAUTO.COM** 1313 36 ST. NE, Calgary, AB, T2A 6P9

REBUILD YOUR CREDIT! 403.207.1041 CALGARYAUTOFINANCING.COM

Part of the Kaizen Automotive Group | KAIZENAUTO.COM



Karen Haynes writes the name of her daughter, Pamela Dawn Clarmont. Haynes said her daughter died of a methadone overdose three years ago. BRODIE THOMAS/METRO

Marking a most solemn solstice

HOMELESSNESS

Longest Night of the Year a memorial for street deaths



Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

Randy Pages first marked The Longest Night of the Year in 2014 in James Short Park.

He and some friends gathered in the park on Dec. 21 to hold a memorial to friends they had lost to homelessness.

This year he got the Calgary Homeless Foundation involved, and a group of about 75 people gathered in the park Monday evening to hold a more formal ceremony for anyone who had died on the street.

"Now the foundation is laid," said Pages. "Hopefully it will only get bigger and better each year."

The event drew people from all walks of life, including Susan Gautron, who was there to remember her father Richard.

She said he died on the streets of Edmonton when he was just 54, after having an asthma attack. Richard suffered from schizophrenia.

"He helped so many people when he lived on the streets," said Gautron. "He would fix stuff up that he found in the garbage and sell it to pawnshops and then go buy groceries for families."

Gautron had several bags with hats and mittens for anyone who needed them.

"I lost my job recently but I can still help out," she said. "It's stuff my kids don't use anymore."

A memorial board was placed near the stage, and attendees were invited to write the names of people who had

died while living on the streets. Those names were also read out during the service.

Louise Gallagher, director of communications with the Calgary Homeless Foundation, reflected on the rush-hour traffic that was cruising past the event.

"It's such a reflection of what happens so often in homelessness; cars drive by, and they don't take note of the person sitting on the sidewalk or the person lying on the sidewalk," she said.

"We'll challenge those driving by to stop and take note and recognize their brothers and sisters."

Gallagher said people living on the street have a much higher mortality rate than the average population and their life expectancy is significantly shortened.

"The average age is young," she said. "So its pretty tragic."

48

Average life expectancy for someone who is homeless

Your Career in Business

Business Administration
Marketing Coordinator
Legal Administrative Assistant
Hotel & Tourism Management
Computerized Business Applications
and more!

What to expect from Academy of Learning Career College:

- ✓ A wide variety of career programs to choose from
- ✓ Advice on the best funding options available to you
- ✓ A supportive, effective and flexible learning environment
- ✓ Caring student supports including job placement assistance

Funding may be available for those who qualify.



Academy
OF LEARNING
CAREER COLLEGE

www.academyoflearning.ab.ca

CALGARY NORTHEAST (403) 569-8973
CALGARY SOUTH (403) 252-8973
RED DEER (403) 347-6676





play with your dinner!

STAGE WEST BOX OFFICE
403-243-6642



SOLID GOLD 2
A MUSICAL REVUE
Written by
Howard Pechet & Timothy French

SCAN TO PURCHASE
TICKETS ONLINE





Events such as the Calgary Folk Festival are huge drivers of the tourism economy, and some experts hope to grow the music industry even more. METRO FILE

Year of Music begins Jan. 7

TOURISM

Music has role in diversifying economy: NMC president



Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

As 2016 approaches, the rollout of Calgary's Year of Music is set to kick off on Jan. 7 during the High Performance Rodeo.

Jeff Hessel, VP of marketing at Tourism Calgary, said his office is trying to stay on top of the new events that are rolling out. He said there are about 150 festival events in Calgary each year, and most of them have some sort of music event attached if they're not solely dedicated to music.

"What makes next year special is that we have the Junos, and the opening of the National Music Centre definitely makes it a very special year," said Hessel.

All together these events bring millions to Calgary's tourism coffers, and that's where Hessel and Tourism Calgary come into play.

"We're here to increase the economic impact of tourism for Calgary. If we can do anything that increases incremental visitation and spending for Calgary,

then we'll do that."

In an address to the Calgary Chamber of Commerce earlier in December, Mayor Nenshi noted the opportunities

"At a time when the Canadian dollar is low, it's an opportunity to attract tourism right now," said the mayor. "I love music, but it's also a marketing opportunity to rebrand ourselves to a national and international audience about the culture, the vitality and the life here in the city."

Andrew Mosker, president and CEO of the National Music Centre (NMC), said music — especially live music — has a huge role to play in the diversification of Calgary's economy.

He said a recently published document — Alberta Music Cities Initiative — spells out a strategy for developing a stronger music industry in the province.

He said the National Music Centre and the Alberta Music Cities Initiative will lead to job creation because more people will be required to support the live music industry in a growing Calgary.

+ ANNIVERSARIES

Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra – 60 Years
Alberta Ballet – 50 Years
High Performance Rodeo – 30 years
Sled Island – 10 years

AMBULANCE

Rural response targets facing criticism



Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Edmonton

Alberta's new ambulance response targets appear to draw stark service times around rural communities, but Alberta Health Services (AHS) insists the divide won't be that severe.

As Metro first reported, AHS has new standards for ambulance response with a target of

12 minutes in urban areas, 15 minutes in small communities, 40 minutes in rural communities and 75 minutes in remote areas.

In a map the Wildrose obtained, rural areas begin right at the edge of city boundaries. The party's health critic, MLA Drew Barnes, said people just outside the cities are still close to major hospitals.

"People who are in bedroom communities around Edmonton and around Calgary are going

to be subject to the 40-minute response time," he said.

Barnes said there shouldn't be different standards for rural areas.

According to AHS documents, one of the most significant problems with current dispatch is ambulance crews getting stuck waiting in emergency rooms. Barnes said the government should make sure that doesn't happen.

"After an hour delay, rural ambulance crews should be sent

back to their communities," he said.

"We need local autonomy. We need local decision makers."

AHS' Chief Paramedic Darren Sandbeck said the map was meant to classify areas and rural communities on the edge of cities will still have good service.

He said this is just the beginning of the work on the new standards and there are more conversations with communities to come.

HOUSE OF CARS

SALES / SERVICE / FINANCE

Calgary's #1 Pre-Owned Dealer Group
www.houseofcarscalgary.com

RING IN THE New Year WITH A NEW VEHICLE!

NO PAYMENTS UNTIL SPRING OF 2016 O.A.C.
Payments Starting @

\$39

Bi-Weekly

Over 300 Vehicles In Stock
At Our 4 Locations

Prices are based on vehicle only. Warranty, finance fees, and GST extra O.A.C.
All bi-weekly payments are calculated at 4.99% interest over 60/72/84 months depending on year of vehicle. Total cost of credit based on an interest rate of 4.99% over 84 months will be approximately \$3,353.19 if customer pays the minimum payment for the full term. Each individual's credit will result in different cost of credit amounts.

Easy 30 Second Online Application
WWW.HOUSEOFCARSCALGARY.COM

HOUSE OF CARS

SALES / SERVICE / FINANCE

House of Cars Inc. is a Licensed AMVIC automotive retail dealer

House of Cars (Chinook)
115, 61 Avenue S.W.
Calgary, AB T2H 0B3
P: 403-454-5794

House of Cars (Baker)
2410 - 34 Street N.E.
Calgary, AB T1Y 3N7
P: 507-352-7307

House of Cars (Macleod)
3909 Macleod Trail S.
Calgary, AB T2G 2M4
P: 403-457-2245

House of Cars (Mid. Hwy)
421, 15 Street S.W.
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 6W4
P: 587-289-0881

Spanking law to be revoked

SECTION 43

End in sight for 'reasonable' force against children

The Liberal government plans to repeal a section of the Criminal Code that protects parents — and teachers — who use spanking and other “reasonable” force against children.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has promised to implement all 94 recommendations from the Truth and Recon-

ciliation Commission (TRC) that investigated the dark history and ongoing legacy of the Indian residential school system. One of them was to repeal section 43 of the Criminal Code of Canada.

“The commission believes that corporal punishment is a relic of a discredited past and has no place in Canadian schools or homes,” the TRC wrote in its final report released last week.

A spokesman for Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould confirmed Monday the federal government includes that recommendation in its overall pledge, but said it is too early to get into other details.

“The government is committed to implementing all of the 94 calls to action. However, at this point, we cannot speculate on potential legislative or policy approaches to address this issue,” spokesman Christian Girouard wrote in an email Monday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

“

Corporal punishment ... has no place in Canadian schools or homes.

A statement released by TRC



IRAQI DEFENCE MINISTER KEEPS FOCUS ON TRAINING Canadian Minister of National Defence Harjit Sajjan writes in the visitors book before meeting with Iraqi Kurdish leader Massud Barzani on Monday. Sajjan toured the front lines in the war against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, meeting with Kurdish military commanders and Canadian special forces who repelled last week's major offensive west of Irbil. SAFIN HAMED/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

EDUCATION

Online threats growing

Canadian universities are being urged to put resources into monitoring online threats against student and faculty safety.

William Taylor, President of the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators, says Canadian campuses will require more than just campus security and police to keep up with emerging risks, particularly as social media grows more pervasive.

“There's always new technologies and new things coming online and frankly, law enforcement and institutions are always a little bit behind that in learning how to deal with it,” he said.

And while copycat hoaxes largely account for the surge in online threats, it remains critical to quickly assess the credibility of each message, he said. Officials at several Canadian universities all say they take every threat seriously and continuously review their security protocols.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

COMING SOON BOXING WEEK YEAR END WRAP UP EVENT

ENJOY THE BEST DEALS OF THE SEASON
DECEMBER 26TH - JANUARY 4TH

See tomorrow's paper for details!

LEXUS OF ROYAL OAK

7677 - 112 Avenue NW

lexusofroyaloak.com

403.296.9600



New chance to solve land dispute: Expert

ARCTIC

Bid for Canada and Denmark to share island put forward

It's hard to imagine a less likely trigger point between two more unlikely combatants than rocky, chilly, empty Hans Island up near the top of the globe.

But as University of British Columbia political science professor Michael Byers ruefully observes: "Wars have been fought in the past over seemingly small things."

He thinks Canada and Denmark will want to avoid such a rotten state of affairs.

What's more, he says current

political events provide a window — and this season of peace offers a powerful incentive — to melt at least some of the diplomatic iciness in the Arctic.

At a conference at Aarhus University in November, Byers and his Danish colleague, Michael Boss, put forward the Aarhus Declaration — which proposes that the dispute over Hans Island be resolved by creating a "condominium of shared authority."

Under such collaboration, Hans Island could even be deemed "an international park symbolizing the peaceful relations among the peoples of the Arctic managed jointly by the governments of Nunavut and Greenland."

Byers said he has thought about such a plan for years, but "it didn't seem like something



Wise statesmen and diplomats seek to resolve small problems while they're small.

Michael Byers



Hans Island has been creating tension between Canada and Denmark since 1973. Practically, it's worthless. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

the Harper government would likely seize upon."

The new governments of Canada and Denmark "should both

want to send positive signals about Arctic co-operation, about dispute settlement," Byers said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

Don't raise taxes for pot, economist warns

As Canada mulls how to handle marijuana legalization — promised in Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's election platform — experts are stressing the "Goldilocks point" for taxes: not too low, not too high, but just right.

"They can't raise taxes too much or people will just smoke the illegal stuff," said Timothy Easton, an economist at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C.

"You want to have it high enough to discourage consumption — if, in fact, that's your goal — but if you set it too high you end up with a continuation of the black market," noted

Patrick Fafard, associate professor at the University of Ottawa's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.

In the U.S., Colorado and Oregon favour a 25 per cent sales tax on weed. In Alaska, which has legalized the use of marijuana but is still figuring out how to sell it, lawmakers have discussed levying a \$50-per-ounce fee.

Colorado raked in nearly \$73.5 million (U.S.) through the first seven months of 2015, putting the state on pace to collect over \$125 million for the year — about \$24 per person from its 5.2 million residents.

Transplanting that formula to Ontario, the cash-strapped government would be looking at more than \$450 million (Canadian) in tax revenue from its 13 million residents.

Up to \$1 billion in savings could be gleaned from the justice system alone, Fafard said.

Pamela McColl, a member of anti-legalization group Smart Approaches to Marijuana Canada (SAM Canada), criticized the tax revenue plan implicit in Trudeau's vow to "legalize, regulate and restrict access to marijuana."

"A government is not a business. A government is not supposed to be making a profit off taxing this thing. That's callous," she said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



A government is not supposed to be making a profit off taxing this thing. That's callous.

Pamela McColl

NEW

12 HOUR PAIN RELIEF*



*UP TO 12 HOURS
 © Johnson & Johnson Inc. 2015
 To be sure this product is right for you, always read and follow the label.



SAVE \$3.00

OFF THE PURCHASE OF MOTRIMAX™ 12 HOUR PRODUCTS



04396420

TO THE DEALER/RETAILER: McNeil Consumer Healthcare, division of Johnson & Johnson Inc. (McNeil) will reimburse you for the coupon's face value plus our specified handling fee provided your customer redeems it at the time of purchase of any item(s) specified. Limit one coupon per purchase and per person, and may not be combined with any other offer. Other applications may constitute fraud. In Quebec, do not redeem this coupon for your customer. McNeil, in its sole discretion, may refuse reimbursement where it suspects fraudulent redemption has occurred or where applications for reimbursement are received more than one month from the expiry date indicated on the coupon. Failure to send in, on request, evidence that sufficient stock was purchased in the previous 90 days to cover coupons will void coupons. Coupons submitted become McNeil property. Reproduction of this coupon is expressly prohibited. For redemption, mail to: McNeil Consumer Healthcare, division of Johnson & Johnson Inc., P.O. Box 3000, Saint John, N.B. E2L 4L3.

NOT VALID FOR REDEMPTION IN ANY STORE OR PHARMACY IN QUEBEC.

TO THE CUSTOMER/CONSUMER: Provincial Law may require the retailer to charge the applicable tax on the full value of the purchase(s) before the redemption in coupon value. GST, HST, QST and PST are included in face value, where applicable. Coupon is void if reproduced or altered from original. Any other use constitutes fraud. Limit one coupon per purchase and per person, and may not be combined with any other offer. No facsimiles. Offer valid only at participating retailers in Canada excluding Quebec. Available while quantities last. COUPON EXPIRY DATE: **December 31, 2015**

© Johnson & Johnson Inc. 2015

KENYA

Muslims hide non-Muslims from militants

Muslims in a bus in northern Kenya dressed non-Muslim passengers in Islamic garb to prevent extremists from identifying them for slaughter, witnesses said.

Two people died in the attacks in northern Mandera County when gunmen believed to be Somalia's al-Shabab rebels shot at a bus and truck headed for the town of Mandera, North Eastern Regional Co-ordinator Mohamud Saleh said.

Abdirrahman Hussein, a 28-year-old teacher, said some of the Muslim passengers gave non-Muslims head scarves to conceal their identities.

An extremist entered the bus and ordered everyone to get out and form two separate groups of non-Muslims and Muslims, said Hussein. One person, a non-Muslim, decided to run and was shot in the back and died, he said.

A police official said a brave

3

Number of attacks on security forces carried out by al-Shabab militants last week. Last November, al-Shabab killed 28 non-Muslims on a bus, then the next month killed 36 non-Muslim quarry workers.

Muslim man fooled the attackers by saying a truck full of police officers that was escorting bus was not far behind.

The officer said the lie about the escort prompted the extremists to order everyone back on the bus and told them to drive off. The extremists ambushed a truck on the same road and asked the driver whether he had seen a truck full of police officers, the officer said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



April 2013, Bangladeshi civilian volunteers assist in rescue operations after an eight-storey building collapsed in Savar, on the outskirts of Dhaka. MUNIR UZ ZAMAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Collapse was murder: Court

BANGLADESH

Charges laid against 41 in 2013 disaster

A court in Bangladesh's capital accepted murder charges Monday against 41 people including the owner of the Rana Plaza building that collapsed in 2013, killing more than 1,100 people in the country's worst industrial disaster.

Most of the victims were garment factory workers who made clothing for about 29 global brands, including Joe Fresh from Loblaws.

Investigators initially had said the accused would be charged with culpable homicide, but they shifted to the more severe charges after the investigation found that building owner Sohel Rana, his staff and the management of the five garment factories had forced workers to enter the building just before it collapsed even though the workers feared doing so because major cracks had developed in the structure a day earlier.

The maximum penalty for someone convicted of murder is a death sentence, while the maximum punishment for culpable homicide is seven years in jail.

The court of Senior Judicial Magistrate Md Al-Amin decided to go ahead with the trial after

accepting the murder charges filed by police in June.

The police report called the deaths a "mass killing." About 2,500 people were injured in the disaster.

Rana and the owners of the five garment factories are among the 41 defendants accused of murder.

While Rana is in jail and 16 others are on bail, the magistrate issued arrest warrants against 24 others, said police prosecution wing officer Mohammad Asaduzzaman.

He said the police would take steps to arrest them. The court told police stations to submit updates on which arrests have been made when the court next hears the case on Jan. 27.

In a separate case, the accused also facing charges of violating safety rules in building Rana Plaza.

The original five-storey building was meant for office space and retail stores, but more floors were added illegally and transformed into factories.

The extremely low wages in Bangladesh led global brands and retailers to choose its garment industry over factories in China and other developing countries.

The building collapse triggered an uproar for reforms in a sector that helps the country earn about \$25 billion a year from exports, mainly to the U.S. and Europe. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1,100 VICTIMS

Most were garment factory workers who made clothing for 29 global brands, including Joe Fresh from Loblaws.

Right now, a little gets you a lot.



SAMSUNG
Galaxy S6
\$99
on WINDtab™

LG G4
\$0
on WINDtab™

The Unlimited Everything Plan

- Unlimited Data
- Unlimited calls to Canada and the USA
- Unlimited Global Text
- Low international calling rates starting at 1¢/min
- Reduced roaming rates in over 50 countries
- Voicemail+
- Call Control features (Caller ID, Conference Calling, Call Forward, and Call Waiting)
- Plus join today and get one month free!

\$39/mo

Offer ends soon



Learn more at WINDmobile.ca. Offer is valid as of December 11, 2015 and is subject to change or cancellation without notice. All unlimited plan features in Canada are from anywhere on our network, otherwise long distance and roaming rates apply. To be eligible for one month free, you must activate a new Pay Before or Pay After line on a Smartphone plan or Unlimited Holiday plan. May not be combined with any other in-market offer, with the exception of the Bring Your Own Device service credit, WINDtab promotional values and Refer a Friend program. A one-time service credit will be applied to the account, equal to the cost of the monthly recurring charge that your line was originally activated on, if the account is in good standing. It cannot be applied to WINDtab payments or toward the cost of devices or accessories. Eligible devices may be activated for \$0 phones with WINDtab. WINDtab terms and conditions apply. All services subject to WIND's Terms of Service, Fair Usage Policy and Internet Traffic Management Policy and are for personal use by an individual. Applicable taxes extra. Additional terms and conditions apply. Samsung and Samsung Galaxy S6 are trademarks of Samsung Electronics Canada, Inc. and/or its related entities used with permission. LG and the LG logos are registered trademarks of LG Corp. and its affiliates. Screen images simulated. WIND, WIND MOBILE and TRUE MOBILE FREEDOM are trademarks of Wind Telecomunicazioni S.p.A. and are used under license in Canada by WIND Mobile Corp. © 2015 WIND Mobile

China's year of disasters

SAFETY REGULATIONS

Four incidents spark outrage, demand for more oversight

China's year of man-made disasters began on New Year's Eve when 36 revelers were killed in a stampede in Shanghai. Four of the incidents in 2015 have prompted the government to pledge to improve industrial oversight and safety regulations:

1 Shanghai Stampede:

About 30 minutes before midnight on Dec. 31, 2014, people were jostling to climb a viewing platform next to the Pu river on the scenic Bund promenade when the stampede started. The crush killed 36 people and injured 49, blemishing the image of China's most prosperous and modern metropolis. Investigators found local police were unprepared to handle the size of the crowd, estimated at 300,000 people. The Commun-



Chinese Paramilitary police in Shanghai. GETTY IMAGES

ist Party boss, district police chief and a third local official in the Huangpu riverfront district were fired and disciplined for corruption.

2 Yangtze Sinking:

The Eastern Star cruise ship capsized in severe winds on the Yangtze River, causing China's worst shipwreck in more than 60 years. More than 440 people died in the June 1 disaster. Captain Zhang Shunwen was arrested after he was rescued from



Rescuers search for survivors in the Yangtze River. GETTY IMAGES

the river, with investigators looking into why he chose to sail into the storm instead of dropping anchor. A government agency in years prior had cited the ship for safety violations.

3 Tianjin Explosions:

A series of explosions at a chemical warehouse on Aug. 12 levelled a swath of the port city of Tianjin, killing 173 and injuring nearly 800. Investigators found that a company, Ruihai Logistics, illegally had stored



Fire and smoke rises after explosions in Tianjin. GETTY IMAGES

the combustible chemicals within 1 kilometre of a residential area. The Communist Party's anti-graft watchdog placed the administrator of China's work safety regulator, Yang Dongliang, who had previously served as Tianjin vice mayor, under investigation.

4 Shenzhen Landslide:

A mountain of excavated soil and construction waste toppled after being soaked by heavy rains, hitting buildings in an



The aftermath of a landslide in Shenzhen. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

industrial park in Shenzhen on Dec. 20. At least 85 people are missing, and an official microblog said survival possibilities in the collapsed buildings were small.

Some residents have blamed government negligence for allowing the giant debris pile to build up, while questions have been raised about the weaknesses of the factories and dormitories that crumbled under the landslide.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HEALTH SCIENCE

Blood policies amended

The three-decade-old U.S. ban on blood donations from gay and bisexual men was formally lifted Monday, but major restrictions will continue to limit who can donate.

The Food and Drug Administration said it is replacing the lifetime ban with a new policy barring donations from men who have had sex with a man in the previous year. While the one-year-ban has been criticized by activists it matches policies in other countries, including Australia, Japan and the U.K.

Gay rights activists said the new policy is a "step in the right direction," but falls short.

"It continues to stigmatize gay and bisexual men," said David Stacy, of the Human Rights Campaign, the largest U.S. gay rights group. "It simply cannot be justified in light of current scientific research and updated blood screening technology."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASA

Astronauts make repairs during surprise spacewalk

Two American astronauts helped move a stalled rail car back into place outside the International Space Station on Monday, quickly finishing the primary job of an unplanned spacewalk before moving on to other housekeeping tasks.

NASA's one-year spaceman, Scott Kelly, and astronaut Tim-

othy Kopra took just a little more than a half-hour to release brake handles on the rail car and help guide it 10 centimetres back into place. The rail car needed to be moved so a cargo ship filled with nearly three tons of food and supplies could dock at the orbiting space lab on Wednesday.

"I see motion!" Kelly said after the astronauts released the brake handles and a robotics officer in Mission Control sent a command to move the rail car.

"Good news! It appears to have reached the work site," astronaut Mike Hopkins in Mission Control told the spacewalk-

400 km

Astronauts Kelly and Kopra executed an unplanned spacewalk more than 400 kilometres above Earth.

ers a short time later.

The spacewalk more than 400 kilometres above Earth was just scheduled last Friday.

The rail car is part of the station's mobile transport system, which is normally used to transport people and equipment, including the station's big robot arm. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

POLITICS

Lindsay Graham out of 2016 presidential race

Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham ended his 2016 campaign for president Monday. The 60-year-old senator said he remains committed to working to achieve security for the American people and helping the GOP expand its base. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



htc one m9

\$149
\$49
on WINDtab™

samsung galaxy s6

\$149
\$99
on WINDtab™

lg g4

\$99
\$0
on WINDtab™

samsung galaxy s6 edge

\$249
\$149
on WINDtab™

nexus 6

\$99
\$0
on WINDtab™

Handset Sale this week.

WIND

Learn more at WINDMobile.ca. Handset sale starts on December 15, 2015 and ends on December 25, 2015 and is subject to change or cancellation without notice. Eligible devices may be activated for \$0 phones with WINDTab. WINDTab terms and conditions apply. Google, Nexus and Android are trademarks of Google Inc. LG and the LG logos are registered trademarks of LG Corp. and its affiliates. Samsung and Samsung Galaxy S6 and Samsung Galaxy S6 edge are trademarks of Samsung Electronics Canada, Inc. and/or its related entities used with permission. All other trademarks are property of their respective owners. HTC, the HTC logo, and HTC One (M9) are trademarks of HTC Corporation. Screen images simulated. WIND, WIND MOBILE and TRUE MOBILE FREEDOM are trademarks of Wind Telecomunicazioni S.p.A. and are used under license in Canada by WIND Mobile Corp. © 2015 WIND Mobile

Realtors try virtual reality

REAL ESTATE

Canadian firm turns floor plans into 3D mockups

Overseas investors looking to park their money in Canadian real estate could soon be donning headsets and touring upcoming condo developments in virtual reality, according to the founder of a Toronto-based technology firm.

Invent Dev turns floor plans of new developments into 3D, immersive mockups that can be experienced in virtual reality, such as through the Oculus Rift system, or via the Samsung Gear VR headset.

David Payne, the company's founder and CEO, says he's been getting tremendous interest from the Chinese community.

"They are very excited about the potential," he said, noting that in the past week alone he has received three media inquiries from Chinese news outlets.

The technology could help Canadian developers tap into global markets by allowing prospective buyers to tour a space without ever having to board a plane, he said. "They can now, from the comfort of their own home, view any floor plan that they want, with the finishes they want, and feel like they're actually inside that home," says Payne.



Invent Dev founder and CEO David Payne says virtual reality technology could help Canadian developers tap into global markets.

CHRISTOPHER KATSAROV/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The technology can benefit developers in other ways as well, says Payne.

Rather than building model suites, Lifestyle Custom Homes employed Invent Dev's technology to create virtual reality mockups of its upcoming development in Toronto's Leslieville neighbourhood — a significant

cost saving for the company, says Payne.

While full-blown virtual reality — the kind that's experienced through a headset — is relatively new in the Canadian real estate industry, a number of agents have been using other technologies to create immersive experiences of homes.

Cameras such as the Matterport Pro 3D can scan an existing home and create a three-dimensional rendering of it that can be viewed through a simple web browser. A number of Toronto-based brokers with Sotheby's International Realty Canada, which works with a large proportion of overseas buyers, started using the technology earlier this year.

Ara Mamourian says his brokerage, SpringRealty.ca,

has been using online virtual tours for all of its listings since 2013. One of the things that prompted Mamourian to start offering the service was a high number of calls from overseas buyers.

"They ... can essentially walk through the house and actually feel how big the rooms are, or how small the rooms are, without being fooled by that wide-angle lens," he says.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PROPERTIES

Foreign investors are willing to buy condos without visiting them in person first.

FISHING

Thailand denies ignoring shrimp industry slavery

Thailand's government said Monday it is not ignoring the slavery and forced labour in its lucrative shrimp industry that was highlighted in an Associated Press investigation published last week.

At a news conference Monday, government officials did not deny the existence of forced labour but they disputed parts of the story, especially the AP's assertion that police took bribes and turned a blind eye to the practices in the industry.

The AP report revealed the widespread use of undocumented migrant labourers, many from neighbouring Myanmar. Many end up being tricked or sold into shrimp-peeling sheds where they are forced to work 16-hour days with no time off and little or no pay. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

market minute

	DOLLAR
	71.61¢ (-0.10¢)
	TSX
	13,034.38 (+10.08)
	OIL
	\$35.81 US (-25¢)
	GOLD
	\$1,080.60 US (+\$15.60)

NATURAL GAS: \$1.911 US (+14.4¢)
DOW JONES: 17,251.62 (+123.07)

Service Directory

To advertise contact 403.444.0136

TAX CREDITS

Hip or Knee Replacement?

The Disability Tax Credit allows for a
\$2,500 Yearly Tax Credit
\$20,000 Lump Sum Refund (on avg)

Copd, arthritis, and many other disabling conditions that cause **Restrictions in Walking or Dressing** may qualify.

For Expert Help: **1-844-453-5372**

PSYCHICS

STAPHA
AFRICAN PSYCHIC

Reuniting Loved Ones ·
 Stopping Divorce
 Removing Bad Spirits ·
 Success in Business
 Healing Protection

Results Guaranteed
403.802.0367

DAILY WARM UP

Calgary **metr**

TECHNOLOGY

B.C. startups threatening 'dinosaurs'

One technology startup is using artificial intelligence to save people who book online flights up to 80 per cent. Another helps farmers boost their crop yields with a mobile app that manages operations from seed to sale. A third aims to replace bank accounts with only a card and an app.

They're all part of a boom in digital-technology startups in Vancouver that are challenging old methods of doing business, and they're out to "disrupt" everything from travel to agriculture to financial services.

"You adapt or you die," said Ray Walia, CEO of Launch Academy, a non-profit firm that trains and mentors such startups. The organization has helped entrepreneurs start more than 350 companies, raising about \$57 million in funding and creating over 635 jobs across 15 industries. They include TripDelta, Farm At Hand and Koho.



Ray Walia, CEO of Launch Academy. THE CANADIAN PRESS



You adapt or you die.

Ray Walia

Walia said employers outside the technology world must change the mindset that

"bleeding-edge" advancements don't matter to their industries.

"It's those technology companies that are going to help those incumbents — those dinosaurs — stay alive."

The youth-propelled trend is also flourishing in the technology hubs of Toronto and Montreal.

About 84,000 British Colum-

bians were employed by over 9,000 tech companies in 2014, according to the provincial Technology Ministry — more than in mining, forestry, and oil and gas combined.

Vancouver is home to more than a dozen "incubator" facilities and "accelerator boot camps," which provide crash courses for early-stage companies on taking technology ideas to market.

Millennials are strongly represented, with many aspiring to hatch the next company valued at \$1 billion — broadly dubbed a "unicorn" in tech circles, or "narwhal" in Canada.

Hootsuite, Slack and Avigilon have already joined the Narwhal Club, while another 12 Vancouver companies are considered emerging. Ten others have been acquired by more established companies, according to Launch Academy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

EMMA TEITEL: ON A BEAUTY QUEEN'S BLESSING IN DISGUISE

Can you honestly say you remember last year's Miss Universe winner — or runner-up? I know I can't, because last year's pageant was a blunder-free affair.

If aliens crash-land on earth tomorrow and demand to know what humans mean when they write #Fail, world leaders should provide them with a tape of Sunday night's Miss Universe pageant.

The now-viral event was more awkward than a thousand puberties because its host, comedian Steve Harvey, accidentally crowned the wrong beauty queen. Harvey misread his most important cue card and declared Ariadna Gutierrez Arevalo, a.k.a. Miss Colombia, winner of the competition, when in fact she was first runner-up. When Gutierrez proceeded to bask in her newfound glory — the sparkly tiara already resting on her head — Harvey interjected to announce his mistake. The rightful recipient of the Miss Universe title was in fact Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach, a.k.a. Miss Philippines, who, thoroughly confused, walked to centre stage where she was forced to claim her competitor's crown.

Nobody was a winner on Sunday, not Miss Colombia, who likely lived her worst nightmare, not Wurtzbach who was deprived of her shining moment, and certainly not Harvey, whose initial tweet apologizing for his error was itself rife with errors; he spelled both the Philippines and Colombia incorrectly. (Harvey, the author of a popular dating advice book, *Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man*, should consider writing a new tome: *Read Everything Twice*.) This year's Miss Universe pageant appears to be a lose-lose situation; the sort of colossal public slip-up in which you feel deeply sorry for everyone involved.

But appearances can be deceiving — especially where beauty pageants are concerned. Take a step back from the cruel spectacle of the event, and Harvey's mistake,



Temporary tears The accidental crowning of Ariadna Gutierrez Arevalo, above, may have been quickly followed by the sting of disappointment, but both the victorious Miss Universe and the hastily re-christened runner-up should be grateful for the publicity, Emma Teitel writes. GETTY IMAGES

unfortunate and awkward as it was, may actually be a blessing for the women affected. For starters, we know their names. Can you honestly say that you remember last year's Miss Universe winner — or runner-up? I know I can't because last year's pageant was a blunder-free affair. If the goal of the pageant contestant is to be crowned before an adoring audience and strut across a stage blowing kisses uninterrupted, then Gutierrez Arevalo and Wurtzbach have every reason to curl up in a ball and cry. But if their goal is lasting exposure and relevance on the world stage, they should rejoice.

Thanks to Harvey's epic mess-up they will be remembered! This is especially true

of Gutierrez Arevalo. Sure she was humiliated and dethroned on live television in front of millions of people, but had there been no mix-up and ensuing chaos she would be a complete unknown today — unable to command international media attention and (what will likely come in the following weeks and months) high profile party appearances, and speaking engagements. You can see it now, in lights: "The Girl Who Was Almost Queen."

This runner-up-as-star principle isn't exactly unprecedented. In 2010 Detroit Tigers pitcher Armando Galarraga came extremely close to pitching a perfect game when umpire Jim Joyce — the Steve Harvey in this scenario — made

an incorrect call, ruling one of Galarraga's opponents safe on base when he was, in fact, out. Thanks to Joyce (who, like Harvey, apologized profusely for his bad call), Galarraga didn't get his perfect game. But he did get boatloads of respect and sympathy from media and baseball fans. In fact, the incident, known today as "the Imperfect Game" or the "Galarraga game," is remembered as an example of pitching genius and a spectacle of good sportsmanship (Galarraga was unusually gracious in the face of a terrible call).

It's hard to believe that Galarraga's game would stand out so distinctly today had he gotten his wish and pitched a perfect game. In fact, you could argue that more people know who he is precisely because he was the victim of a bad call. The same can be said about Ariadna Gutierrez Arevalo who, thanks to Harvey's colossal mistake and the graciousness with which she gave up her crown, will not sink into obscurity. It's possible she'll be remembered longer than her competitor.

"No one remembers who came in second," said the golfer Walter Hagen. The quote is a favourite among "winners" — among them, surprise, surprise, Donald Trump. But perhaps it's time to amend the expression — or more specifically, to complete it. No one remembers who came in second, unless, of course, they got royally screwed out of first.

Emma Teitel is a national columnist for the Toronto Star. She has been a front-of-the-book columnist for Maclean's magazine for the past four years, focusing on a wide range of subjects including women's issues and popular culture. She won the National Magazine Awards gold award for columns in 2013.



YOUR RIDE

My transit wish list for Calgary in the coming year

Jeremy Klaszus



Was 2015 a good year for getting from here to there in Calgary? That all depends on where you stood — or rode or walked or drove. In 2015, Calgarians got their first taste of Uber, as well as a long awaited pilot cycle track network downtown. But if you lived in Bowness, say, you got shut out of the car2go home zone. All told, 2015 was a mixed bag.

Heading into Christmas and 2016, here's my transportation wish list for Calgary.

1. The return of Uber. Not the Uber of notorious defiance but a kinder Uber — one that plays by local rules. Uber launched in October with its trademark scorn for by-laws, miffing Mayor Naheed Nenshi (not a smart move!), and had to shut down after a month to comply with a court injunction. The two sides have since called a truce of sorts to flesh out new rideshare rules. Hopefully in 2016, Uber works with Nenshi and the city in good faith, re-launching in a way we can all feel good about.

2. NDP cash for the LRT Green Line. The federal government and the city have pledged more than \$1.5 billion each a LRT crucial route that will stretch from north-central Calgary to the far southeast. There's still a missing piece, however: a similar funding commitment from the province. Time for the NDP to step up.

3. Vision Zero for Calgary.

Throughout North America, cities have started adopting a Swedish model for eliminating traffic deaths and injuries. It's called Vision Zero, and it involves designing streets for pedestrian safety and lowering speed limits to save lives. Under the concept any loss of life in traffic is unacceptable. In 2015, Seattle joined Chicago, Los Angeles and New York City, among others, in adopting Vision Zero policies. City council should put Calgary on that list in 2016.

4. More and better car-sharing.

This was not a great year for car-sharing in Calgary. Sure, car2go added a smattering of four-door vehicles. But it also shrunk its home zone — and everything east of Deerfoot Trail is still excluded. Meanwhile, Calgary Carshare, the city's small but spirited carshare co-op, dissolved. That leaves us with one rather limited car-sharing option in a city of 1.2 million. Calgary is ready for a new player that offers multiple vehicle types.

5. Smartphone transit fare payment.

This is a nice-to-have, not a need-to-have. Still, while commuters in Vancouver and Toronto have tap-card payment systems, Calgarians are digging in their pockets for change. The city pulled the plug on its disastrous "Connect card" attempt in June, after losing \$5-million, and is being justifiably cautious in the aftermath.

Jeremy Klaszus is a freelance journalist and stay-at-home-dad.

metro
Your essential daily news

STAR MEDIA GROUP PRESIDENT
John Cruickshank

VICE PRESIDENT & EDITOR
Cathrin Bradbury

VICE PRESIDENT & GROUP PUBLISHER
METRO WESTERN CANADA
Steve ShROUT

MANAGING EDITOR CALGARY
Darren Krause

ADVERTISER INQUIRIES
adinfo@calgary.metronews.ca
General phone 403-444-0136

FREE TO SHARE

PHILOSOPHER CAT
by Jason Logan

"I DON'T WANT TO BE A PASSENGER IN MY OWN LIFE."

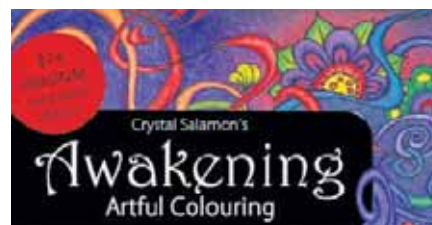
DANIE ACKERMAN

NEW **Philosopher cat now at**
www.mymetrostores.ca

METRO ADULT COLOURING CONTEST

COLOUR YOUR CALGARY

It's time to sharpen your pencil crayons, Calgary. Each week until the end of the year, Metro Calgary, and partners Nikon and the Camera Store, give you a chance to win two seats to the Dec. 31 game between the Flames and Kings. This week's edition — extended past the original contest end date as an added bonus — closes Monday, Dec. 28 at noon. ILLUSTRATION COURTESY CRYSTAL SALAMON/FOR METRO



+ THE ARTIST

Crystal Salamon is a wildly creative Turner Valley artist and instructor, extreme sport enthusiast, mother of two busy boys and a passionate advocate for colouring's ability to inspire creativity.



Crystal Salamon

Awaken your creative spirit and inner child with 37-plus hand-drawn designs in Crystal's book, *Awakening Artful Colouring*. Purchase at crystalsalomon.com and at select Calgary and area stores, including Mona Lisa Artists' Materials, Yogadotcalm, Swinton's Art Supplies, Heritage Park and Bluerock Gallery. Join her on Facebook.

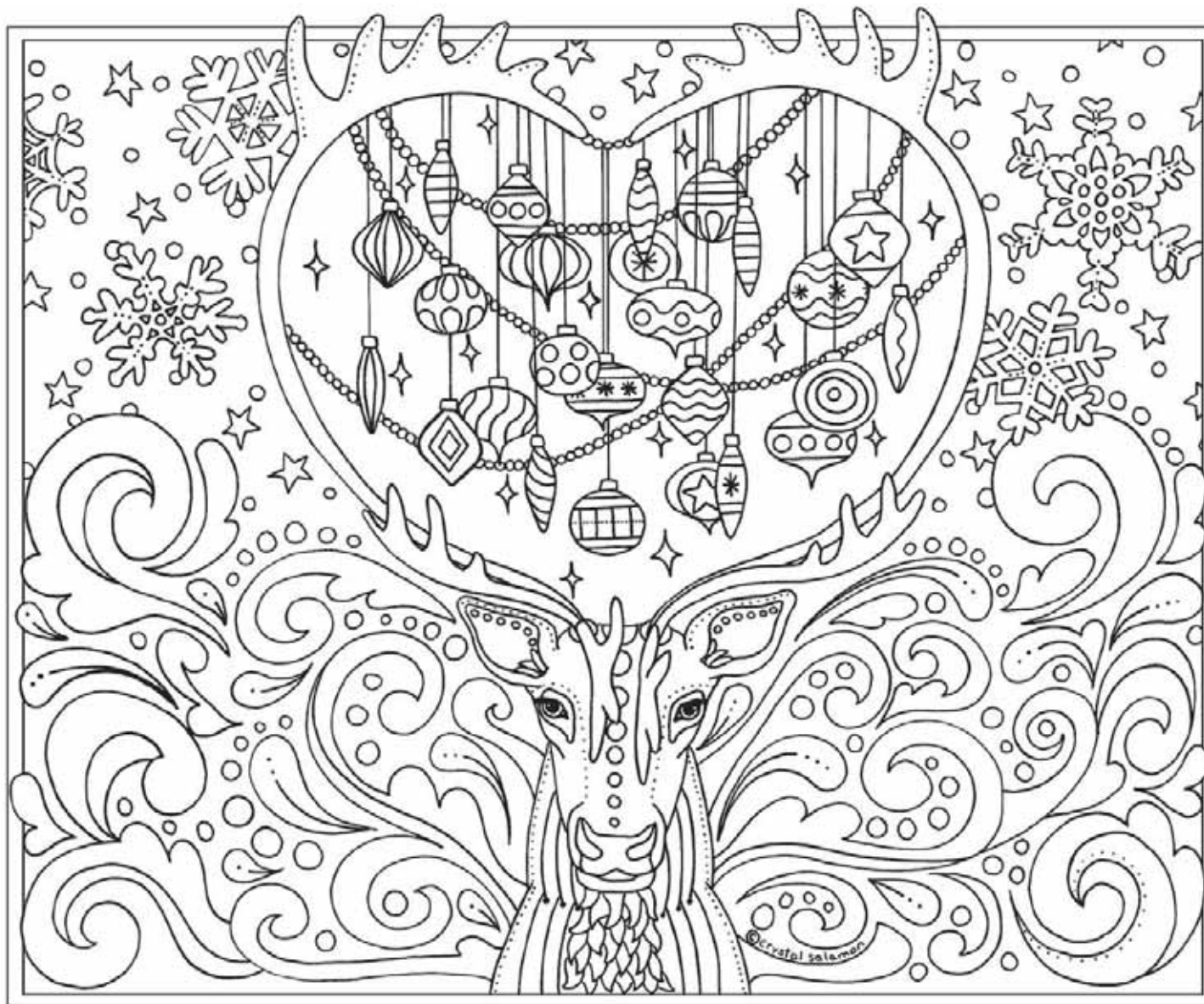
THE RULES

First Name: _____
Last Name: _____
Phone Number: _____
Email: _____

No purchase necessary. Contest open to Alberta residents 18 years of age or older. Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries and calibre of entries received. Coloured entries to be dropped off in-person during business hours: The Camera Store (802 11th Ave. S.W.) or Metro Calgary (110, 3030 3rd Ave N.E.). Winners will be drawn weekly from Oct. 19 to Dec. 21, and one (1) grand prize will be awarded on Dec. 22.

Approx. retail value of the grand prize is \$400. Full contest closes Dec. 20, 2015, at 11:59 p.m.

For complete contest rules, visit clubmetro.com/Calgary.



Capture the magic of the season
with a Nikon D7100 DSLR.

Nikon
D7100

The flagship of Nikon's DX-format HD-SLR lineup. Achieve a thrilling level of image quality and sharpness thanks to a specially designed 24.1-MP DX-format CMOS sensor. Enjoy speed, precision and convenience at every step, from shooting up to 6 fps to instantly sharing your shots with the optional WU-1a Wireless Mobile Adapter. Create dazzling Full HD 1080p videos and ultra-smooth slow-motion or time-lapse sequences.

Our Price **\$999.00** with 18-105mm f/3.5-5.6 VR

Price valid while supplies last.



The Camera Store
Get the picture

Call or check our website
for guaranteed low prices.

802 - 11th Avenue S.W. Calgary
(403) 234-9935 | 1-888-539-9397

www.thecamerastore.com

Proud recipient of the Consumer Choice Award for Photographic Retailer 10 years in a row.



Homework isn't what it used to be

Heavy backpacks are passé as kids' homework is increasingly completed online. It makes supporting a child's learning at home especially challenging for parents. Here are four teacher-recommended learning apps that will help kids to keep up — or maybe even get ahead. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**



Grade 8 student Asha Ibrahim, 13, left, reacts to getting a correct answer as she does her homework with Brainrush. Her cousin Hanan Hassan, 13, and also in Grade 8, middle, and sister Amina Ibrahim, 11, Grade 7 encourage her. CHRIS SO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Brainrush

Best age: All ages
Price: Free
App store rating: n/a (available at brainrush.com)



"Of all the apps I've used with my class, BrainRush is the best," says David Vaillancourt, a middle school teacher in Toronto. This platform allows teachers and students to play, create and share learning games. The use of "adaptive practice" ensures that students are challenged, but not overwhelmed. "Students look forward to using BrainRush, and the games' ability to adapt and respond to the individual student is a unique feature not available with a lot of ed-tech apps," Vaillancourt says. "Parents find it a valuable resource for learning at home and they can easily monitor their children's' progress."



DragonBox Algebra

Best age: Students 5 to 12 (and up)
Price: \$4.99
App store rating: 4½ stars out of 5

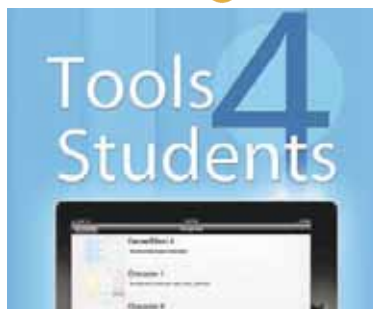
Brian Aspinall, a Grade 7 and 8 teacher in Chatham, Ont., recommends DragonBox Algebra as an engaging, problem-based method of helping students learn basic concepts such as variables and balancing equations. "I've been using this app for years and students really enjoy learning with it," he says.



Google slides

Best age: 7 years old
Price: Free
App store rating: 4½ out of 5

Traditional homework is often solitary and boring, but Google Slides changes all that. Students use the app to write journals, create digital books, solve math problems and create presentations. Their work can be easily shared with peers and teachers for immediate feedback. It's like a dynamic, interactive 21st-century diary.



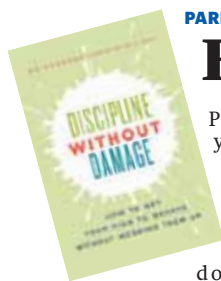
Tools 4 Students

Best age: Students 5 to 14
Price: \$1.19
App store rating: Not yet rated

Jonathan So, a Grade 6 teacher, finds Tools 4 Students invaluable. The iPad app provides 25 different organizer templates to help students organize their thinking, take better notes, or prepare their thoughts before writing. So recommends Tools 4 Students for essays and research activities.

PARENTING

How to rewire kids brains to regulate their behaviour



Picture your kid misbehaving. As a parent — what do you do? Send them to their room, make them skip dinner... or offer them a reward if they cut it out, perhaps? You might want to rethink your methods, according to a new book from Vancouver-based psychologist Dr. Vanessa Lapointe. In *Discipline Without Damage: How to Get Your Kids to Behave Without Messing Them*

Up (out in January), the mother of two debunks some popular ways to discipline your kids and what parents should do instead.

In the book, you talk about common ways parents handle moments of acting out — things like time-outs, grounding kids, and offering rewards. What's wrong with long-engrained approaches?

First of all, we have to land at why those approaches have become so popular. It's because they afford instant gratification. When you give

a child a time out, you're going to have an immediate reaction — the child stopping their behaviour. Yes, you've got the behaviour to stop, but you've managed to stop it at a cost — it's out of fear. It's like going to the carnival and you play the whack-a-mole game; you've whacked it down, but it's going to pop up in another way, like another behaviour or frustration, because the child continues to have this unmet need for the parent to come alongside them. Frustration often morphs into aggression, either outwardly or inwardly

directed, which could mean self-loathing or self-harm.

So what's the better way to discipline kids, then?

The thing is, children are going to be children, based on how their brains are growing. Behaviours we look at as challenging are just a natural part of being a child. We need to come alongside and connect with them. The key to discipline without damage is to be disciplining through a relational connection with your child that meets them in their natural state.

You give one example of a mom calming down her daughter by taking her aside and explaining a situation to her calmly. It seems great, but how do parents achieve that in moments of stress and frustration?

Parents need to be in a regulated state to come alongside their children and be the regulator in that relationship. When you're looking in on a child who's engaged in some kind of challenging behaviour, you might see that behaviour as that of a child who needs to be schooled and put into

place. Instead of seeing your child as a brat, see them as someone who is having a hard time while their brain is really fired up. When you see them through those kinds of eyes, it invites a whole new kind of emotion. If you lived in my house, I'm not a rock star, and I'm not doing this perfectly all the time. There are days when I'm a hot mess! But no-one says you need to be perfect — you just need to do this enough times so your child's neural circuitry holds onto enough over time.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

JOHANNA SCHNELLER **WHAT I'M WATCHING**

Live-action brings energy

THE SHOW: Undateable, season three, episode eight (City/NBC)
THE MOMENT: The Fourth Wall

Permanently single dude Danny (Chris D'Elia) just met Charlotte (Whitney Cummings) at his local watering hole, but already they feel a connection.

"I bet your sex life is like Nic Cage's movie career," she taunts him.

"You'll do anything."

She stretches out her legs. He cracks wise about her having balls. She says one of them has to. "Careful," he says, holding back real laughter. "Don't get us cancelled" — here he looks straight into the camera — "twice."

The studio audience cackles on cue.

This series joins a growing wave of live TV, as networks scramble to give people a reason to watch shows as they air.

The Sound of Music Live! and The Wiz Live! scored big in their broadcasts. Grease Live is set to air January 31.

Tyler Perry recently announced he'll host a live musical about Jesus, The Passion, this coming Palm Sunday.



Undateable now films every episode live and tweeting is encouraged. CONTRIBUTED

Undateable floundered in its first two seasons, but a live broadcast last May perked up ratings. Now every episode airs live, complete with musical guests who perform during breaks, live Tweeting encouraged (the actors' Twitter handles appear on screen) and much smashing of the fourth

wall that usually divides the cast and audience.

In-jokes are big (Cummings and D'Elia costarred in her show, Whitney), as are stunt casting, winking at the audience, exaggerating any mishaps or missed lines, and hamming it up for the cheap seats.

The cast sure seems to have a good time.

But they should redirect some of that energy into the scripts.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

FILMMAKERS

Japanese festival offers big money

A Japanese festival focused on the art of the short film is offering a new award of nearly a million dollars to a director from anywhere in the world with a great pitch for a movie.

Organizers say short video is where audiences are going, as entertainment increasingly gets consumed on smartphones. They also believe the format holds potential for novice filmmakers, bringing fresh insight.

The deadline for submitting a 500-word pitch on what's billed as a "thrilling, exciting, moving" storyline is Feb. 29. The pitch must be written in either Japanese or English.

"Movies aren't about length," said Tetsuya Beshho, an actor who founded the festival in 1999, likening the best short films to the minimalist but fine-tuned concentration of haiku poetry.

"There are Hollywood flops with everything thrown in for marketing. You can't decide if it's a comedy, a love story or an action film. People are getting bored with that kind of movie," said Beshho, whose

500,000¥

Five finalists will be chosen. Each gets a 500,000 yen (\$4,000) prize. Then one will receive 100 million yen (\$800,000) to make their movie. That winner will get an additional 1 million yen (\$8,000) award.

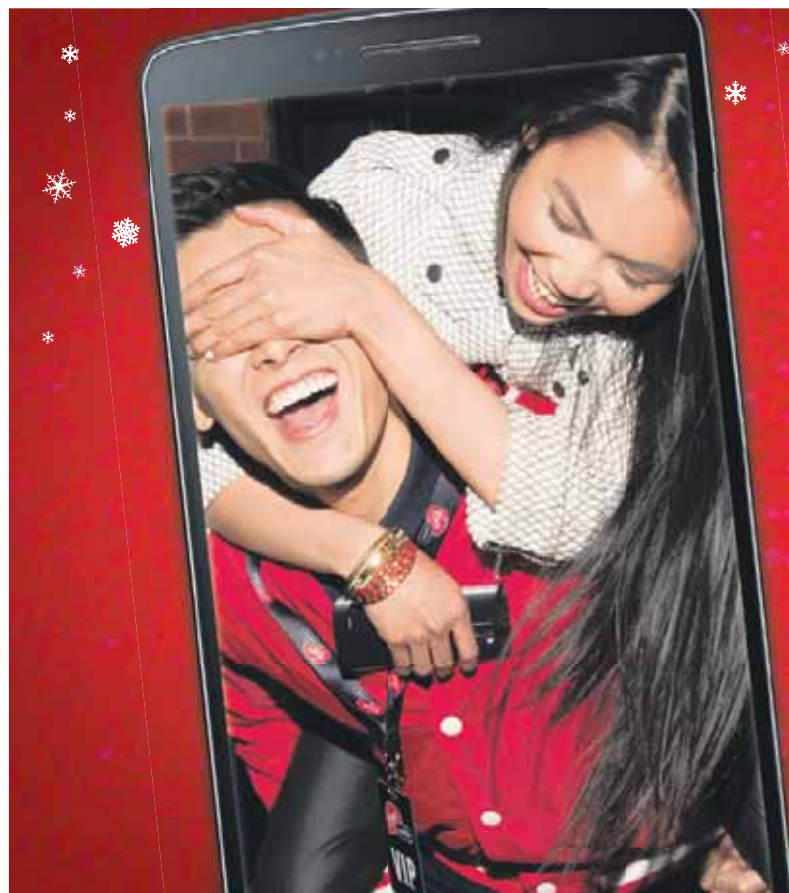
films include Godzilla vs. Mothra and Solar Crisis, with Charlton Heston.

His festival has showcased the best in short films, such as Toyland, which won an Oscar, and the light-hearted comedy I Hate Musicals.

It also honours less conventional work from a new breed of creators, including Indonesian auteur Yosep Anggi Noen, who was also featured at the Rotterdam and Busan international film festivals.

"It can be more free, more independent," Anggi said of the short film format. "Nobody tells me how to make that film."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



MEMBERS GET STOCKINGS

MEMBERS GET DEALS AT

H&M

UP TO 25% OFF

adidas

15% OFF

STARBUCKS

\$15 GIFT CARD FOR \$10

LG G3 \$0* with a 2-year agreement + GET A \$150 BONUS GIFT

Order online at virginmobile.ca, call 1.855.BE.VM.VIP or stop by to say hi.



«WIRELESSWAVE»

Tbooth wireless

WIRELESS etc...

Let it snow, let it snow, let it shine

CAROLS

Study looks at lyrical tributes to weather in popular song

Holiday songs mention the heat nearly as often as they do the snow, according to a recent study by British meteorologists who combed through pop music lyrics looking for references to the weather.

"Perhaps surprisingly, in Christmas songs in our primary list the word 'cold' is used less than one might expect, but instead is implied through idealistic Christmas images of snow," the authors say.

Take Let It Snow, for example: "Oh the weather outside is frightful/But the fire is so delightful."

Many holiday songs feature some version of this contrast because they are written for an audience in the northern hemisphere, the researchers say.

The only exception they found was the upbeat Christmas countryfolk single Summer by Australia's Sunny Cowgirls, which describes barbecues, jet-skiing and "runnin' round with



Weather can act as a muse or metaphor in song. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

the sprinklers on."

Sally Brown and her co-authors from the universities of Oxford, Newcastle and Reading didn't only study Christmas-themed music; they found 759 weather songs in a karaoke database, from Good Day Sunshine by Blowin' in the Wind. (The majority of the weather songs, in fact, were by The Beatles or

Bob Dylan.)

The researchers' aim was to investigate "how society portrays weather in music and the types of weather that inspire musicians." But they also just wanted to have a little fun, the lead author Sally Brown, a research fellow at the University of Southampton, told the Toronto Star.

It all started on a lark, she said. At a conference in 2012, the meteorologists played an icebreaker game where they listed off weather-related tunes: You Are the Sunshine of My Life, Walking on Sunshine, It's Raining Men — the list went on.

They had so much fun doing it that they continued in their spare time, between studying



STUDY FINDINGS



Weather holds the key

Very often, the weather is used as a metaphor for love or a relationship, lead author Sally Brown, a research fellow at the University of Southampton noted.

Bus Stop by The Hollies, for example: "All that summer/We enjoyed it/Wind and rain and shine/That umbrella, we employed it/By August, she was mine."

For some songwriters, the weather seems to have acted as their muse. George Harrison apparently wrote Here Comes the Sun after leaving a business meeting in April 1969, on the first sunny day of the year after a particularly

dreary winter, according to the study. Meteorological records show that that April was the sunniest month on record until 1984. When Harrison sang "It's been a long cold lonely winter," he may have been speaking literally.

They also found a correlation between certain weather references and the keys that a song is in. Mentioning the sun "significantly increases the probability" that a song is in a major key, while songs in minor or mixed keys are more likely to mention the rain.

If a song in their database mentioned a rainbow, it was 100 per cent likely to be in a major key. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

coastal geomorphology and experimental atmospheric physics, Brown said.

Out of the 190 songs that had weather as a primary theme, sun and sunshine were the most common references, followed by rain. The researchers say they may explore the subject further by studying music in other languages or focusing on certain

genres.

Whether they do or not, their experiment has already changed the way some of the authors listen to music.

"Last week, I was working away in a hotel and they had Christmas music and I was counting the weather references," Brown said. "It was Frosty the Snowman." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ET THEIR STUFFED.

ALDO

⊕ MORE

20% OFF

\$50/mo. GOLD PLAN GETS YOU:

- UNLIMITED Weekends & Evenings from 5pm
- UNLIMITED Worldwide Text Messaging from Canada
- UNLIMITED Picture Messaging to Canada & US
- 300 Canada-Wide Minutes
- 300 MB of Data
- Voicemail & Call Display

*\$4.99 SIM CARD NOT INCLUDED.



virginmobile.ca

IT'S BETTER TO BE A MEMBER

Limited time offer. Services available with compatible devices. *Available with new activation on a 2-year agreement. \$4.99 SIM Card not included. Bonus gift will be awarded as either an in-store credit or a Visa Gift Card, see store for details. Monthly 911 fees apply in: AB (44¢), NB (53¢), NL (75¢), NS (43¢), PEI (70¢), SK (62¢) and QC (40¢). Taxes extra. Other conditions apply. Conditions and restrictions apply for Member Benefits; see virginmobile.ca/benefits for details. Offer and Member Benefits subject to change/cancellation at any time without notice. If you cancel your Commitment Period early, an Early Exit Charge will apply. See your Agreement for details. Unlimited Text and Picture Messaging is only valid when message is sent from Canada. Text messages sent within the U.S. or internationally, premium text messages, text alerts, messages sent with an instant messaging application and dial-up messages are not included in any plan and cost extra. Canada-Wide Calling applies to calls made from Canada to a Canadian number or calls received from any number while you are inside Canada. Additional minutes are 50¢/min. Long distance charges on calls to the U.S. are 50¢/min in addition to your local per minute rate. Additional data is \$5/100 MB. Screen image simulated. Phones and some colours may not be available at all retailers. Other restrictions apply; see virginmobile.ca for details. © 2015, LG Electronics Canada. All rights reserved. "LG" and the "LG Logos" are registered trademarks of LG Corp and its affiliates. The VIRGIN trademark and family of associated marks are owned by Virgin Enterprises Limited and used under license. All other trademarks are trademarks of Virgin Mobile Canada or trademarks and property of the respective owners. © 2015 Virgin Mobile.



The Boston Red Sox will retire Baseball Hall of Famer Wade Boggs' No. 26 during a ceremony at Fenway Park on May 26

Herdman urges players to learn from the pain

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Coach tells his team World Cup heartbreak a growth lesson

John Herdman doesn't want his players to forget their World Cup pain.

The Canadian women's national team was left bitterly disappointed this summer after crashing out of a tournament the hosts felt was there for the taking, losing 2-1 to England in a heartbreaking quarter-final.

Six months later and with preparations well underway for 2016 Olympic qualifying, Canada's head coach hasn't sensed a World Cup hangover, but rather a renewed belief.

"I don't think you move past something like that," said Herdman. "You have to move through those things. You have to reframe. You have to look at the things that worked well for us that we were really happy about. And you have to look at other aspects where we need to grow."

With that in mind, Canada just wrapped up a four-team event over the weekend in Brazil that saw the squad finish second after losing the final 3-1 to the hosts.

Herdman brought a mixture of youth and experience to South America following a training camp in Vancouver, with teenagers Kennedy Faulknor (16), Deanne Rose (16), Gabrielle Carle (17) and Marie Levasseur



John Herdman high-fives fans prior to the start of the FIFA Women's World Cup quarter-final match between England and Canada in June. RICH KAM/GETTY IMAGES

(18) all making their full international debuts.

"What stood out was the performances of the team in some of the games where you really did get to see the quality that we could have moving forward," Herdman said in a telephone interview from Brazil. "The senior players have cultivated a culture where these kids can come in and really play in all phases." Speed and scoring were

"You have to move through those things. You have to reframe."

John Herdman

among the areas where Canada was lacking at the World Cup. Herdman is hopeful that

some of the new blood will help.

"I think the team is comfortable that we've got strategy and structure down," he said. "It's now bringing that alive — that winning mindset and just leaving everything out on the pitch every time."

Canadian captain Christine Sinclair was among the veterans who made the trip to Brazil and said it was encouraging to see some of the younger players

fulfil roles with another camp set for next month ahead of CONCACAF Olympic qualifying in February.

"Qualifying is always a stressful time, not going to lie," she said. "It always comes down to one game. You win, you're in. You lose, you're out. Football's a funny game sometimes. I've been on both sides of those games. You can't take any of these teams lightly." THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Stampeders re-sign national lineman Turner

The Calgary Stampeders have re-signed national defensive lineman Junior Turner.

Turner, who was set to become a free agent in February, was the Stamps' 2015 nominee for Most Outstanding Canadian.

He started all 18 regular-season games at defensive tackle and recorded 32 tackles — including a team-high five tackles for loss — and added three quarterback sacks. Turner also played both playoff games and totalled four tackles. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Thorpe staying with Als after resignation nixed

Noel Thorpe will stay on as defensive co-ordinator and assistant head coach of the Montreal Alouettes.

The CFL club confirmed Monday that Thorpe will be back for the 2016 campaign.

Reports last week said Thorpe, who had two years left on his contract, had resigned and was looking to sign with the Edmonton Eskimos. That prompted league commissioner Jeffrey Orridge to ban coaches moving from one team another without his written approval. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Beckham gets 1-game ban

The NFL has suspended New York Giants wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr. for one game for his conduct in Sunday's loss to Carolina in which he drew three personal foul penalties.

Beckham would miss Sunday night's game at Minnesota if his appeal falls through.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pens' Sullivan wins first

Evgeni Malkin and Phil Kessel each scored two goals and the Pittsburgh Penguins ended a five-game losing streak with 5-2 win over the Columbus Blue Jackets in Pittsburgh on Monday night.

The Penguins, who played without captain Sidney Crosby (lower-body injury), gave coach Mike Sullivan his first victory following an 0-4 start.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FIFA

Blatter banned: 'I will fight until the end'

Banished from soccer's ruling body for eight years for unethical conduct, Sepp Blatter won't give up the presidency of his beloved FIFA without a fight.

"I will fight. I will fight until the end," Blatter said Monday at a news conference that started 90 minutes after he and former protege, vice-president Michel Platini, were each banned by FIFA's ethics

ELECTION

In two months 209 FIFA members will elect a new leader.

committee.

It was a stunning removal of world soccer's most powerful leaders over a \$2-million payment by FIFA to Platini, the

president of European soccer's ruling body UEFA. The payment is also the subject of a criminal investigation in Switzerland.

"I'm sad. It can't go on this way. It's not possible," said the 79-year-old Blatter, who has spent more than half his life working for soccer's scandal-hit governing body.

"After 40 years, it can't happen this way. I'm fighting to restore my rights."

Already serving a provisional ban, the elected FIFA president and Platini, his longtime likely successor were kicked out of the sport just two months before 209 member federations elect a new leader.

Their offences were judged to be conflict of interest and disloyalty to FIFA. They avoided life bans because corruption was not proven.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Sepp Blatter

PATRICK B. KRAEMER/KEYSTONE VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RECIPE Tuscan Chicken Skillet Dinner



PHOTO: MAMA YISNEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada



• 1 tsp sugar

Directions

1. Pour the oil into a large skillet and warm to medium heat. Brown the chicken. You may have to work in batches. Remove from the pan and set aside. Drain all but about 1 or 2 Tbsp of fat.

2. Add the mushrooms, oregano and thyme to the pan and allow the mushrooms to become quite soft and brown. Remove them from the pan and set aside.

3. Add the onion and garlic and cook for about 3 minutes until they're soft and fragrant. Add the sugar, sun dried tomatoes, canned tomatoes and beans. Simmer for about 5 minutes, breaking up the tomatoes with the back of a spoon.

4. Gently tip in the chicken and mushrooms and simmer for another 10 minutes, until the meat is cooked through.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT
SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

With meat, veggies and legumes in a single recipe, you don't need anything else for dinner. And you won't miss the mess of more than one pan to clean!

Ready in

Prep time: 30 minutes

Serves 4

Ingredients

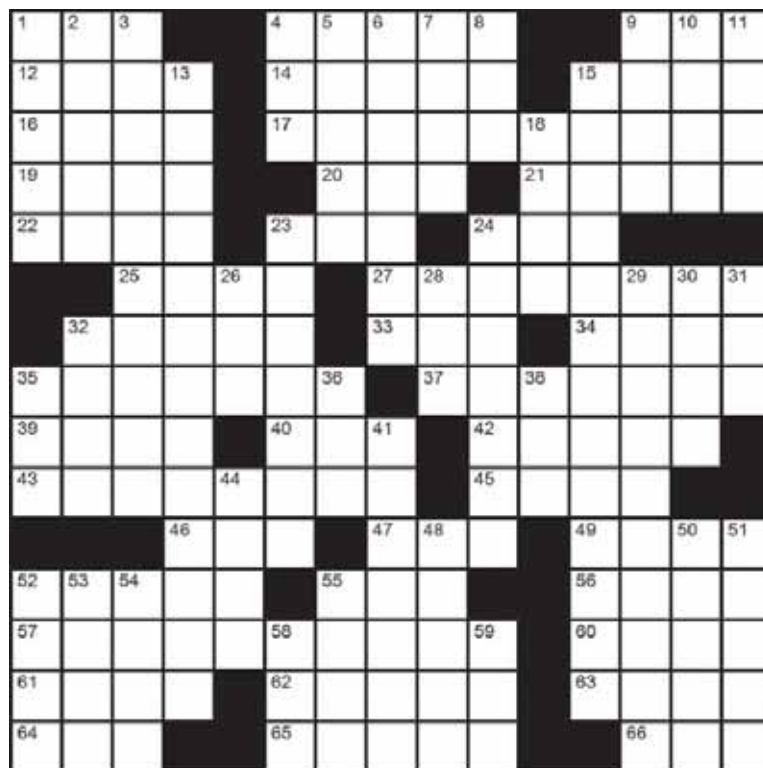
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 lb chicken breasts, cut into bite-sized pieces
- 1/4 tsp oregano
- 1/4 tsp thyme
- 1 1/2 cups mushrooms, sliced
- 1 onion, diced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup sun dried tomatoes
- 14 oz can cannellini beans, drained
- 19 oz can tomatoes
- 1/4 tsp chili powder

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

- Punny planes posting
- Bing Crosby's Christmas medley duettist David
- Li'l hairstyles
- Cartography subj.
- 'Pine' is a popular one at Christmas
- Hourly pay
- Tech sch. grad
- Sporty character voiced by Canadian actor Paul Kligman in "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer": 2 wds.
- Roughly
- Realty database, commonly
- Beginning
- Genuine
- Comprehend
- Towels holder
- Houston ML-Ber, to fans
- "Up on the ___": Christmas tune that goes "Down through the chimney with lots of toys..."
- Burglar
- Lieutenant Tasha ___ ("Star Trek: The Next Generation" role)
- Ploy
- "Gimme Little Sign": 1967 hit for ___ Wood
- Ritzly spice
- Tennis great Bjorn
- Egg mass
- Clods
- Treats left for Santa
- Lounge around



- Ctrl, Shift, ___
- Long river in Scotland
- Jeans tops
- "Let ___ Be Peace on Earth"
- ___ Mahal
- Stagnate
- "We Three Kings of Orient Are"... "Field

- and fountain, moor and mountain / Following ___
- Change position
- Seal herds
- Buy
- By any chance
- Photo ___ (PR events)

- Groups, briefly
- Cousin of -ette

DOWN

- Spew
- Opera voice
- People like Yukon Cornelius when travelling: 2 wds.
- Grad letters

- ___, All Ye Faithful"
- Rich
- Bus. name abbreviations
- Ordinal suffix
- Beaver creations
- S-shaped moulding
- Cobblestone

- Holiday things sent/received: 2 wds.
- "It's the Most ___ of the Year": Classic tune on #48-Down
- Dove murmurs
- "Don't hold back!": 3 wds.
- In a country style
- Soak flax
- '_' in Ornament
- Bird in "The Twelve Days of Christmas": 2 wds.
- Bears, in Barcelona
- Write
- Deanna ___ (Counselor on "Star Trek: The Next Generation")
- 'Start With Trust' is this org.'s slogan
- "___ so fast!"
- ___ Fighters (Rock band)
- Mansion settings
- Peter Fonda title role
- Current festive album produced by Bob Rock: '___ Arden Christmas'
- North Pole toy-shop workers
- Soothsayers
- 'Winter' as Wnter
- Basketball net
- Halts
- Tea stirrers [abbr.]
- Cape Town's home [acronym]
- Li'l streets

★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
You are on your way up in the world. The Sun's move into the career area of your chart means if you have a plan and if you make the effort there is nothing you cannot accomplish.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
The Sun's change of signs endows you with almost limitless confidence. But try not to take life too seriously. Make a point of seeing the funny side of everything that happens.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
The week will bring to light something you have been trying to hide from yourself. If you want to get over it now is the time to face up to your demons. They are not as terrifying as you imagine.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Get over any embarrassment you might feel at revealing your innermost feelings. Even if you are the kind of Cancerian who keeps your emotions in check you will want to share what is in your heart.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Anything you begin will have the stamp of success on it, so long as you start slowly and don't take silly risks. You have big ambitions but you still need to take care of your health.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
The Sun moves into the most dynamic area of your chart today, making this one of the best times of the year for getting things done. Have a plan and pace yourself.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
As from today you will feel a lot more positive about what kind of person you are and what kind of things you should be doing in your life. If you feel yourself pulled in a new direction don't let others talk you out of it.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You'll let others know what you think and feel today. However, that does not mean you should tell them everything about yourself. It could give rivals information to use against you.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
The efforts and sacrifices you've made recently have not been in vain, and your financial situation will improve by the end of the week. Don't rely on promises — get cash in hand.

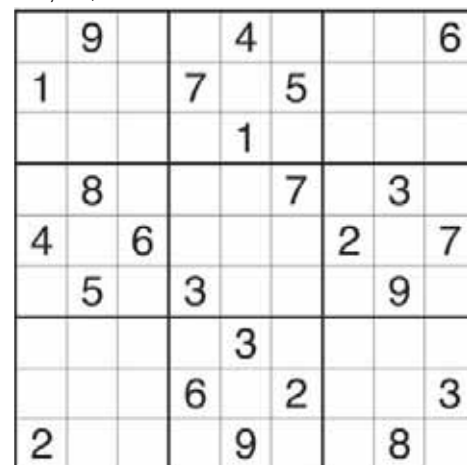
Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
If you focus your energy in a single direction you'll achieve something amazing. There can be no more doubts or wondering if you are making the right moves. Choose a path.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You're about to get yet another opportunity to overcome a fear and you must take it. Stop worrying about life and start living it and enjoying it. There are so many good things in the world.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Someone you meet on your travels will become a good friend and also a partner who can assist with the big projects you've got lined up. Your needs and theirs are closely related.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



©2013 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Tell us how you really feel.

Join our online reader panel and help make your Metro even better.
metronews.ca/panel

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers.

for more fun and games go to
metronews.ca/games



Adventure! Teach English Overseas

- TESOL Certified in 5 Days
- In-Class or Online
- No Degree Required!

1.888.270.2941

Job Guaranteed!

Next in-class course: Jan. 31 and Feb. 1-5, 2016
Next Seminar: January 13th, 2015 @ 7pm
Best Western Village Park Inn, 1804 Crowchild Trail NW

www.globaltesol.com



Job Guaranteed!

Buy **\$15** Starbucks® eGift card
with MasterCard®



Send to a **loved** one



They get **\$20**

Give **\$15** and they get **\$20**,
just for using MasterCard in the
Starbucks® App or online.

While quantities last.

starbucks.ca/mastercard



Limit of 11,000 \$5 Starbucks Card eGifts available while supplies last. Buy a minimum \$15 Starbucks eGift Card using your MasterCard® and the recipient will receive an additional \$5 Starbucks eGift Card. Promotion period runs from 12/17/15 and ends the earlier of (a) when all 11,000 \$5 Starbucks Card eGifts are distributed or (b) 12/31/15. Offer not available in Quebec. For full terms and conditions, visit starbucks.ca/mastercard. *MasterCard, Priceless and the MasterCard brand mark are registered trademarks of MasterCard International Incorporated. ©2015 MasterCard International Incorporated.